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KULAK SUES STATE
FOR RETURN OF FARM MACHINES

JUDGES DISMISS CASE ON LEGAL POINT -- Wola Ludu, No 31, 31 Jan 50

Mieczyslaw Stobbe of Wysoka Village, Starogard Powiat, Gdansk Pomorze, brought suit in the Gdansk Regional Court against the State Treasury and the Samopomoc Chlopska Village Cooperative in Bobowo for the return of some farm machines which he had previously purchased from the state but which were repossessed by the state in 1948 and assigned to the Machine Center.

This case is typical of the class struggle in villages and the attitude of village kulaks. The court's decision in this matter shows what is expected from the courts of Poland in such cases.

Stobbe has a beautiful 69-hectare farm in Wysoka Village and his chief source of income has been the exploitation of his poor neighbors. At the end of hostilities, he purchased some German farm machines from the Mikolajczyk regime on contract and made the first payment. In December 1948, when the balance became due, he was notified by the government that his contract was voided.

The Powiat authorities in Starogard, following the administration's policy, assigned the machines to the Cooperative Machine Center in Bobowo.

The judges in the case, A. Stopniak, J. Odrobinski, and W. Maruczynski, dismissed the case on the grounds that Stobbe had a right to request the return of his payments but had no legal right to claim the return of the machines, since such action would be for the benefit of the individual and not the common good. Stobbe was charged court costs amounting to 15,000 zlotys.

Judicial opinion in the country supports the legality of the decision, since the case was dismissed on the grounds of inconsistency with public welfare. Legally, the agreement should not have been annulled, since payment had already been made; but, on the other hand, the center needed Stobbe's machines.

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- 1 -

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The general prosecutor's motion for dismissal was not properly supported as was the decision of the court. The Samopomoc Chlopska Village Cooperative showed no interest in the case and was not represented in court. It must be emphasized that cooperation between the court, the prosecutor, the village cooperative, and all concerned is most important in such cases.

CRIMES DECREASE IN POLAND -- Trybuna Robotnicza, No 27, 27 Jan 50

Through increased activities of different security organs, several important espionage centers were detected and eliminated during 1949. Robbery and murder cases in Poland have decreased notably. Today, 95 percent of the MO (Citizens' Militia) is comprised of workers and small landholders. During 1949, 1,000 officers and noncommissioned men were trained in MO central schools.

Minister Radkiewicz has stated that the daily prison fare has been increased to 3,060 calories. Sanitary conditions and medical care have also improved. The range of vocational training and employment for prisoners has been expanded by establishment of industrial schools, factories, etc. Prisoners taking training courses in prison receive a regular school certificate on which no mention is made of the fact that training was obtained while in prison.

The total estimated expenditures of the Ministry of Public Security for 1950 are approximately 4 percent less than for 1949.

RADIO LISTENERS AVOID PAYING RADIO FEES -- Slowo Polskie, No 33, 2 Feb 50

There are still many radio listeners in all parts of Poland who operate radios without payment of the necessary fee. During 1949, 29,154 such listeners were apprehended. A total of 48,923,425 zlotys were collected from the apprehended listeners.

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- 2 -

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